

From: crwells2001@yahoo.com
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 1:37:25 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

In the strongest way possible, I urge that you rescind the unjust and coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. If you do not reverse course I ask you to expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections to these procedures. With many other persons of faith and moral conviction, I strongly oppose the government's forcing free insurance coverage on Americans especially for drugs and devices that can cause an abortion such as ella and Plan B).

In addition, I urge you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization and business that has moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds. The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still mean that a host of businesses and organizations that have conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer employees health insurance. James Madison, the father of the U.S. Constitution, summarized our concerns more than 200 years ago: "The civil rights of none, shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext infringed."

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and people like me who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize sterilization services and contraceptives, especially when some of these drugs can take the life of unborn children. No Americans should be forced by the federal government to subsidize services they find morally reprehensible. Again I urge you in the strongest way possible to reverse course and remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely,
Richard Wells
Humboldt, TN 38343